upward from the shoulder **20** beyond the rim **24** of the frame **12** by a distance slightly greater than the distance between the shoulder **22** and the rim **24** of the frame **12**. When the other identical frame **12** of the pair is inverted and placed on top of the first frame **12** so that the rims **24** engage, the protrusions **26** of the inverted frame **12** interengage the protrusions **26** of the first frame **12** to define a hinge integral with the frames. One protrusion **26** of each frame **12** is positioned immediately adjacent the longitudinal center of the hinge, and the other protrusion **26** is across the longitudinal center from the first protrusion **26**, spaced by a distance substantially equal to the length of one of the protrusions **26**. The protrusion **26** on the inverted frame **12** adjacent the longitudinal center of the hinge is received within the space between the protrusions **26** of the first frame **12**, and the protrusion **26** on the first frame adjacent the longitudinal center of the hinge is received between the protrusions **26** of the inverted frame **12**. The protrusions of each frame **12** also engage the portion of the other frame **12** extending between the shoulder **22** and the rim **24**, as can best be seen in FIG. **3**.

The tempered metal spring clip **16** engages an anchoring lug **30** defined on the inner periphery of each frame **12**, on the side of the frame containing the protrusions **26**. Each spring clip **16** includes a curved body portion **32** and a flange **34** at each end of the body portion **32** which are angled toward one another on the concave side of the body portion **32**. Each flange **34** engages a lobe **36** which is defined on the anchoring lug **30** and extends from the anchoring lug in a direction away from the rim **24**. As is evident from FIGS. **3** and **5**, the lobe **36** is spaced from the inner periphery of the frame **12**, and one of the flanges **34** on the spring clip **16** engages the lobe **36** and protrudes into the space between the lobe **36** and the frame **12**.

The engagement of the flanges **34** of the spring clip **16** with the lobes **30** of the frames **12** holds the frames securely together so that the protrusions **26** of each frame **12** are interengaged with the protrusions **26** of the other frame **12** of the pair, and engaged with the portion of the other frame extending between the shoulder **22** and the rim **24**. The protrusions **26** are rounded so that the frames **12** may be pivoted easily about the protrusions. As the frames **12** are pivoted away from one another, the lobes **36** separate and, thus, stretch the spring clip **16** so that the curve in the body portion **32** of the spring clip **16** is straightened. When the frames **12** are separated to the point where the box **10** is fully opened, the spring clip **16** acts to maintain the box **10** in the opened position due to the fact that the force of the spring clip **16** at this point acts over the pivotal center of the hinge, away from the body **32** of the spring clip **16**, due to the relative positions of the lobes **30** when the box **10** is fully opened. The lobe configuration and the size of the spring clip **16** are chosen so that the fully opened position of the box **10** is one in which the frames **12** are held apart at an angle slightly less than 90°. It is understood, however, that the box **10** can be designed to be maintained in a fully open position with the frames **12** forming an angle of 90° or more. When the frames **12** are forced out of their fully opened position by a slight amount, the force of the spring clip **16** acts against the lobes **30** on the side of the pivotal center of the hinge where the body **32** of the spring clip **16** is positioned. Thus, from this point on, the spring clip **16** biases the box **10** closed in a snap action.

Most of the area of the body member and the cover member of the box **10** is defined by the shells **14**. Each shell **14** comprises a body portion **38** having a configuration complementary to the configuration of the frame **12** with which the shell **14** is to be used. As is illustrated in FIGS. **2**, **5** and **6**, the body portion **38** includes an outwardly directed flange **40** which is received on the ledge **18** defined on the inner periphery of the frame **12**. The flange **40** is secured to the ledge **18** by sonic welding, adhesive, or other suitable means. In addition, the retaining lugs **20** extend over the edge of the flange **40** to aid in retaining the shell **14** in position in the frame **12** both during assembly and afterwards. In addition, a notch **42** is defined in the shell **14** adjacent to the anchoring lug **30** to accommodate the anchoring lug and the spring clip **16**. The shells **14** may have various depths for a given peripheral dimension, and thus for a given frame **12**, and may be made in a variety of colors and with a variety of surface textures and treatments.

In producing the box **10** according to the present invention, only one plastic mold or die is required to produce both frames **12** for the box. In addition, the hinge for the box **10** is defined by protrusions **26** integral with the frames **12** and only a separate spring clip **16** must be added. Furthermore, identical shells **14** may be attached to each of the frames **12** of a pair, or shells of various depths, colors and surface finishes can be applied to a given pair of frames in a wide number of combinations. Among the surface finishes contemplated are smooth finishes, dull finishes, embossments, and coatings of flocking material like felt.

Although it is apparent from the foregoing that the present invention provides significant advantages in the construction of boxes, it is understood that the various changes and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as recited in the appended claims and their legal equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. A container for storing and displaying merchandise comprising:

a pair of identical frames;

a shell secured to each frame to define a body member and a cover member for the container;

protrusions on each frame which cooperate with the protrusions on the other frame to define a hinge; and

means for holding the protrusions together.

2. The container of claim **1** wherein each frame comprises a first protrusion adjacent the longitudinal center of the hinge and a second protrusion positioned across the longitudinal center of the hinge from the first protrusion and spaced from the first protrusion a distance substantially equal to the length of the first protrusion, the first protrusion of the other frame being received in the space.

3. The container of claim **1** wherein the protrusions are on a shoulder defined in the frame below a rim of the frame, the protrusions extending beyond the rim of the frame.

4. The container of claim **1** wherein each frame includes an anchoring lug, and the holding means comprises a spring clip engaging the anchoring lugs.

5. A container for storing and displaying merchandise comprising:

a first frame and a second frame, each frame defining an internal ledge;